



# Lead Update

## Upcoming events: RI's Lead Month 2002

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is planning for this year's celebration of "Lead Poisoning Prevention Month". A statewide mailing targeting community-based agencies, schools, daycare centers, and the medical community, was sent out in February inviting all groups to submit activities planned for the month of May, in order to develop the calendar of activities. This year the program is organizing a statewide "Coloring Contest" for children 5 to 12 years of age enrolled in the school system.

If your organization is interested in participating, please call 222-5943.

Our Lead Month 2002 celebrations include a conference that will take place on May 17, 2002, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Bruce Lanphear from the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, who will be addressing the audience on "Potential Pitfalls in the Primary Prevention of Childhood Lead Exposure". Dr. Lanphear will also address the pediatric community at Rhode Island Hospital's Pediatric Grand Rounds, on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., in the George Auditorium.

Recognizing our partners' work in lead poisoning prevention and education, in this year's event we will also be presenting Excellence Awards in three categories: "Lead Month," "Keep it Clean" and "Lead Screening."

Thanks to all our partners for your continuous efforts in lead poisoning, and for your support in all Lead Month 2002 activities.

## The Parent's Corner

(A note from Ana Reynoso, Parent Consultant for the Lead Program)

During the past few weeks I have been involved in conducting a survey specifically designed to evaluate the case management services offered to families whose children have been poisoned by lead. The families I interviewed received services from either the HELP Lead Safe Center or the Family Outreach Program. I feel fortunate to have a one on one communication with those of us that have been affected by lead in our community, and I am sure the case management surveys will give the Lead Program an excellent opportunity to see the quality of service the families received.

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## Results of the Lead Update Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey included with the September Lead Update newsletter! We appreciate the time and effort taken to return the surveys and your feedback is greatly valued. Taken as a whole, the survey showed a solid readership and interest in the Lead Update newsletter. The vast majority of respondents appeared to find value and interest in the publication and in continuing to learn about lead poisoning. Many good suggestions were made for additional topic areas, which are being carefully considered by program staff.

An impressive 337 responses were received, the plurality from elementary school nurses (n=111), followed by doctors (n= 62 including 25 Family Practitioners and 37 Pediatricians), day care providers (n=51), and Other (n=40). Respondents reported interacting with a median of 35 children under the age of 6 each week, with responses ranging from zero to a thousand.

The survey asked readers to choose one or more things they did with their copy of the Lead Update:

- ✓ ☐ 65% of the respondents indicated they read the newsletter, a percentage that varied a great deal by profession type; Doctors and day care providers were more likely, while medical staff and "other" professionals were less likely.
- ✓ ☐ 42% indicated that they shared the newsletter with colleagues.
- ✓ ☐ Only three respondents (0.9%) indicated that they discarded the newsletter without also reading it themselves or sharing it with colleagues or clients.

As for the relevance of the publication:

- ✓ ☐ Just under two thirds of respondents (65%) found the Lead Update to either relevant or very relevant to their work.
- ✓ ☐ An additional 32% found it to be somewhat relevant, with only 3% finding it not relevant to their work.
- ✓ ☐ Overall, 60% of respondents found the information in the lead update to be useful or very useful for their work.
- ✓ ☐ Thirty five percent reported the information to be somewhat useful, with only 4% indicating the information in the update was not useful for their work.
- ✓ ☐ Pediatricians were the most likely to find the information very useful, with over a fifth (22%) indicating such.

In looking at the value of different content areas, respondents were asked to rate the areas on a scale from one to five, not valuable to very valuable:

- ✓ ☐ Information on program policies was rated the most valuable, with an average score of 4.1.
- ✓ ☐ Data on lead poisoning and regulatory information were tied with an average score of 3.9, followed closely by information on lead program activities with a 3.8.

The survey showed that readers of the Lead Update are satisfied with the quarterly distribution (91%) of the newsletter and it's delivery method (66% for mail, 21% for fax). A vocal minority supported e-mail distribution, and the program is planning to implement an e-mail option.

A rich and varied set of topics were suggested for future editions, and we will do our best to cover many of them in future editions. More than any other area, comments tended to focus on screening, the requirements for screening, and the documentation of screening required for school entry. Many respondents were also interested in summaries of recent research into lead poisoning, particularly research that dealt with the educational impacts of lead on children.

Some individuals were looking for information in a form suitable for providing to families or clients (brochures are always available by calling: 1-800-942-7434). Additional information was also sought on our environmental program, unusual sources of lead, and information on lead safe housing. *Watch out for the upcoming editions.*